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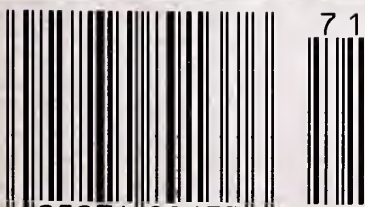
# Lady Like

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Joanna

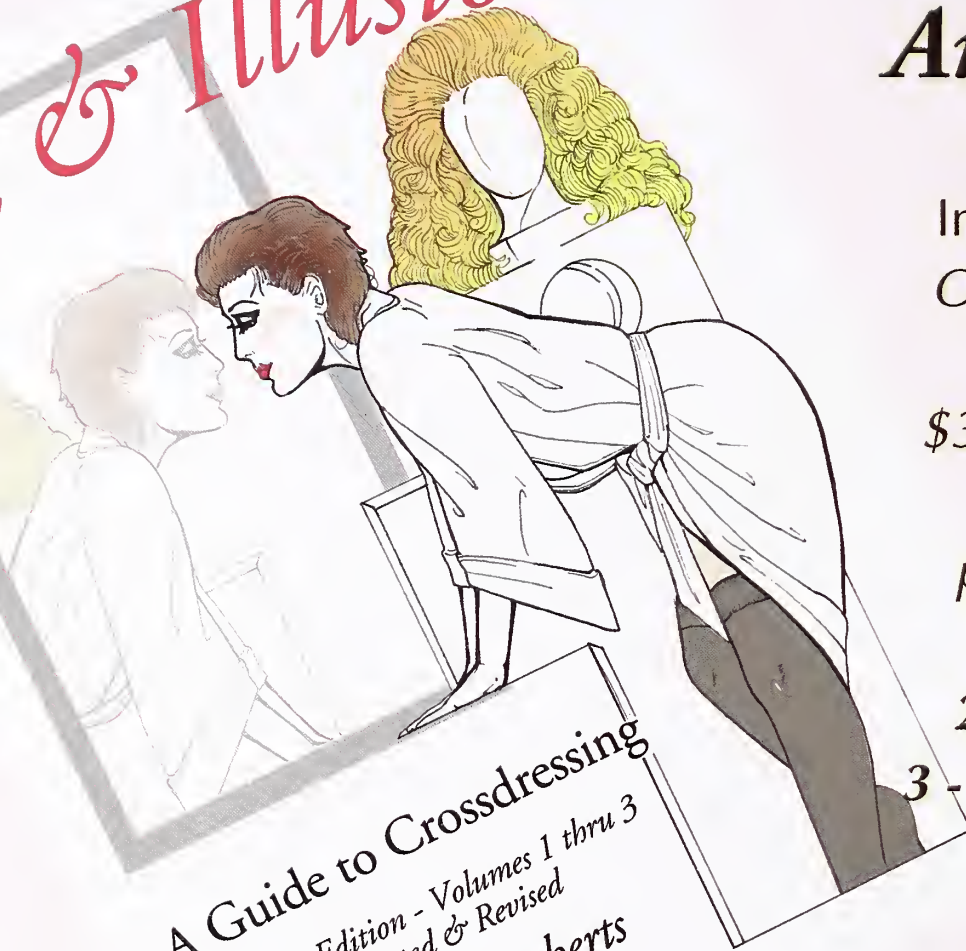
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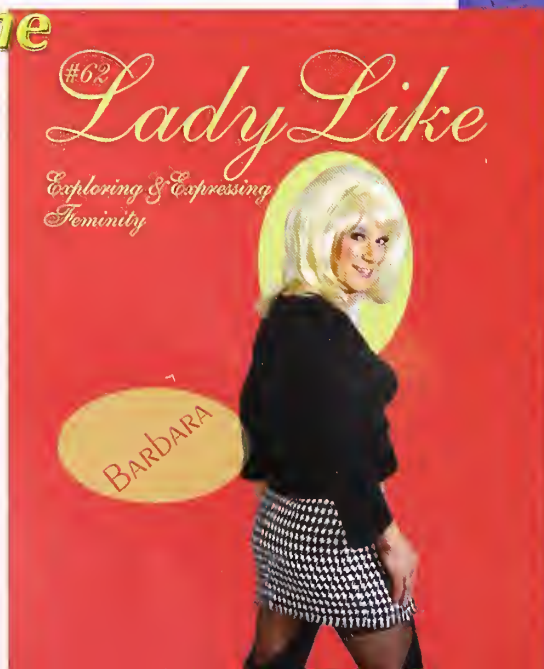
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# LadyLike

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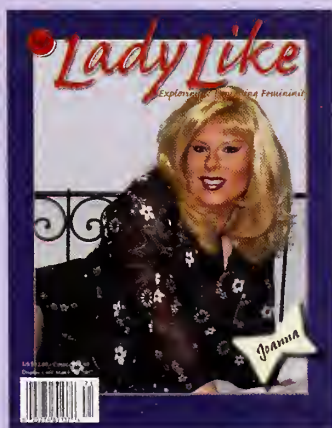
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# LadyLike

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# Joanna Stewart

*Residence: New Jersey*

*Age: 54*

*Height: 6'*

*Weight: Appropriate for height  
(and I weigh less now than when  
I was in high school)*

*Dress Size: 1X*

*Shoe Size: 11*

*Perfume: Susan Lucci,  
Opium*

*Make-up: MAC and  
Sengence Lipstick*

*Favorite Pastime: Shopping  
and getting out*

*Favorite Place: Boston*

*Best Attributes: Legs, Smile,  
Optimism*

*Worst Attributes: Butt, Lips,  
Too outspoken*

*Profession: Professional providing  
business information services to small  
businesses.*

*Vices: My Gel nails (always have  
them) and pedicures, shoes, wine and short  
skirts.*

*Dislikes: Rednecks, people who stare or don't  
listen.*





LL: Please welcome our Profile Girl, Miss Joanna Stewart. We always start at the beginning, Joanna, so please tell us how you started dressing.

J: I've always known that I had feminine tendencies and my first contact with women's clothes was when I was eleven.

LL: What first attracted you?

J: My grandmother's seamed stockings.

LL: So that got you started dressing up around your home?

J: No. I always liked woman's hosiery but never had any desire to dress until my forties.

LL: Talk about a late bloomer! Why didn't you try it in your youth?

J: It never occurred to me that there was a woman inside of me so I didn't have a burning to desire to dress in my teens, 20's or 30's. Women's clothing was more just a turn-on. But, as I got older, the desire to be feminine kept growing.

LL: So if you didn't dress till your forties you must have followed a typical pattern of college, romance and then marriage, right?

J: I've been married for 30 years to a very understanding and supportive woman.

LL: So she knows about your dressing. When did you tell her?

J: Didi knew about my femme side before we were married and even dressed me once but emotionally I couldn't handle it. I assumed I must be gay. Oh, how little many of us know in these early, formative stages.

LL: Very true. We tend to have a lot of fears. It can take time to get over all of them. When did you actually come to terms with it and start dressing?

J: I finally confronted my crossdressing in May of 2002.

LL: What made you make the decision then?

J: My wife has MS and at that point she was fully bed-bound. I have a high stress job plus we have two special needs children. All the stress pushed me to the edge, and then there was the Internet.

LL: Is that where you turned for information and support?

J: Yes, like so many other girls I started looking on the Internet. I guess for every support or information site about crossdressing there must be a hundred others that are porn, but persistence did pay off.

LL: You do have to sift a lot to find any real







resources but they are out there. What sites did you find?

*J*: Vicki Rene's site, Tri-Ess, and your site all helped me gain better insight as to what crossdressing

*J*: Out? To this point I had never really been dressed.

*LL*: So you just dove right in.

*J*: It was a full immersion baptism and I've never turned back. It was cathartic and life-altering.

*LL*: What do you feel you learned about yourself and your desire to dress up after you took the plunge?

*J*: I realized that my feminine side was part of my "essence" and this essence has been continually developing. I realized it wasn't sexual, but an expression of who I am.

*LL*: Do you like one gender better than the other?

*J*: I learned that I wasn't in conflict with my male side and that I like both sides. Most importantly, I found myself and started channeling energy into accepting this duality, not pushing it away.

*LL*: You fast tracked a lot of things that many CDs work on for years. Did you share your experience with your wife?

*J*: No, I didn't tell Didi that I was doing this.

*LL*: U h o h ! W h a t happened?

*J*: Two days later she looked at me and asked,

and transgender are all about. I learned I wasn't alone or abnormal. Eventually, I went looking for a transformation service to really see what this was, how I would look and feel. I also needed a release from everything else in my life. And so Joanna was born.

*LL*: Our names are very important to most of us. How did you settle on Joanna?

*J*: It was really simple for me. I realized that I couldn't email anyone with my boy name and had to create a second email address to communicate on the Net. Out of the blue, Joanna just came to me, not sure why but it stuck.

*LL*: What was your first transformation like?

*J*: I had a photo shoot (inside and outside), then we went to a mall and then out to dinner.

*LL*: And you had never been out *en femme* before that?





"Are you seeing another woman?" In those two days I had gone from a bitter and frustrated male to a more relaxed and calmer person and she had noticed.

LL: What did you say?

J: My answer was yes, of sorts. I explained where I had been and showed her the pictures.

LL: You've said she is supportive so her reaction must have been positive.

J: Actually, she said, "It's about time."

LL: Having broken through your self imposed barriers about dressing and made up your mind to go for it, how did you go about it?

J: For the first year I took monthly trips to a Vermont makeover service. Without their support I wouldn't be talking to you today. Thanks to them, I started to find out more about my feminine side and what it meant to my existence. Initially, this was seeing my girlfriends in Vermont every month and getting out in groups. It refined how I did my make-up, the clothes I wanted to wear and most important gave me experience getting out in the real world.

LL: You started your active dressing in 2002 and the first year was real world experience. What's happened since that first "training" year?

J: It really took over two years for me to find my essence. During those two years I learned that I relish my time as Joanna but when it's time I'm happy with my male side. I do believe that my souls are coming together and I am seeing things more femininely. This is an evolution and I know the journey is far from over.

LL: Once the door to the other side is open

it does show you that there's a lot of road to travel. What other things have you seen on the journey?

J: It's making me question my sexuality but, as I said, this is a journey and I don't know the final destination.

LL: What kind of things do you do for fun when you're dressed? Do you go out in your hometown area?

J: I tend to travel a bit for dressing. I still have friends in Vermont and I love going to Boston, too, where I have a new circle of CD and GG friends. We go to the theater, to expositions and

art shows, spas for facials, have dinner at great restaurants, and yes, we go to TG accepting bars and dance clubs.

LL: Do you like hitting the club scene?

J: Yes, I do like clubbing since short skirts are my favorite.

LL: Out of all of your dressing spots which do you enjoy most?

J: It's a toss up between Boston, Provincetown, and Erie, Pennsylvania.

LL: We can see Boston and Provincetown; P-Town is a well

known spot for TGs since it hosts the Fantasia Fair every year, but Erie?

J: The Erie Sisters Gala happens there every November. It's a wonderful social time with bus trips every day, something special planned at the hotel every evening, plus three TG friendly dance clubs for a late night out.

LL: Well who'd a thunk it? What's hot about Boston?







J: Boston, like NYC, is very accepting with night life and many great venues for shopping, eating and culture.

LL: Is there anything you would change about yourself, your crossdressing or your life in general?

J: For Joanna, nothing, since like the movie "It's A Wonderful Life", I'm sure that life would have been very different. I would do anything to have my wife healthy, though. She would relish going out with me. I do feel bad in that I believe Joanna was only born due to my wife's illness.

LL: Sometimes good things do happen because of bad things. It's part of life.

J: And life is a complex puzzle where we too often look at an event (a puzzle piece) and ask why. There is no single answer, but if you have



the perspective of time, you can often see the interrelationship of many events. I also follow astrology and believe that you are presented with events and how you react make up your life experience.

LL: Everyone has a story about something that happened while they were out and about dressed. What was your scariest moment?

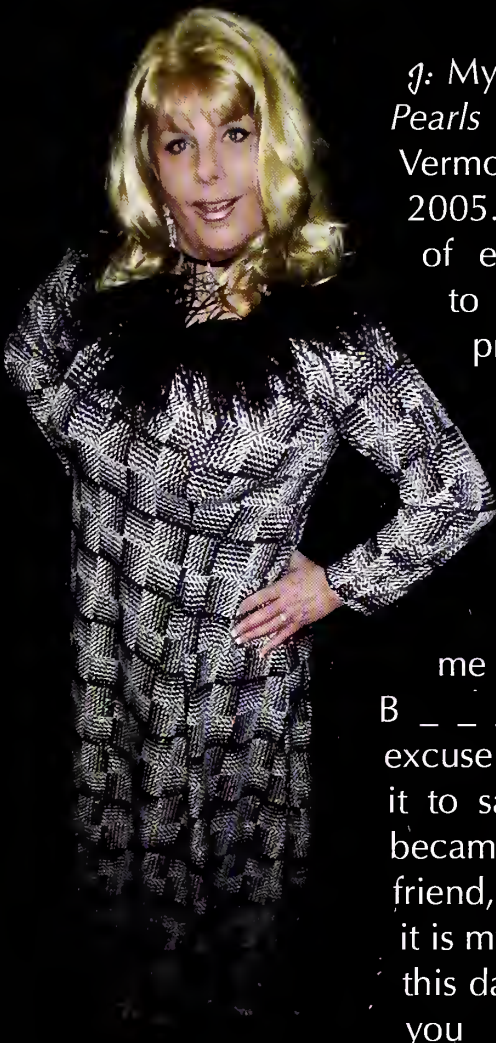
J: I've been really lucky and haven't really had a really bad moment. Oh, there were moments... like being followed by a Quasimodo-type admirer, or when my big sister called a policeman over to our car to ask directions.

LL: That could be scary.

J: Ahhhhhhhh.... a bit. But, now I know who I am and have the confidence and good sense to know where to go so I avoid having to ask for directions.

LL: Okay, happiest moment?





J: My first club trip to *Pearls* in Burlington, Vermont. It was August 2005. I was thinking of every reason not to go including the proverbial, "I have nothing to wear." Then Stephany came out of her room, threw a red spider dress at me and said, "Okay B \_ \_ \_ h, what's your excuse now?" Suffice it to say that Stephany became my best "girl" friend, the dress fit, and it is my favorite dress to this day (not something you would wear to the mall though). I

remember walking down the street with the breeze going up my legs and feeling beautiful. It is one of those rare times where the real thing was as good as the fantasy.

LL: Do you have any insights you want to share with our readers?

J: Being different is hard, confronting your fears is even harder, but it *is* worth it. First, find a support group. If you don't confront this it will eat at you for years, decades for some of us. I have met, as I am sure you have, many bitter CDs.

Second, be informed. There is a ton of information about crossdressing. There are many "varieties" of being transgendered and being a CD does not mean you are automatically gay. I have many resource links on my website ([www.joannasplace.com](http://www.joannasplace.com)).

Third, embrace it, if it's for you. Think of all the negative energy we direct to suppressing this phenomenon channeled instead to support

it. It's a load off your shoulders and I find it has made be a better person, and certainly a lot happier.

Fourth, when you go out (and that's the best part), dress appropriately. People will assume you're a woman or leave you alone. I call it thinking with "positive intent" and you'll be surprised that our concerns about being

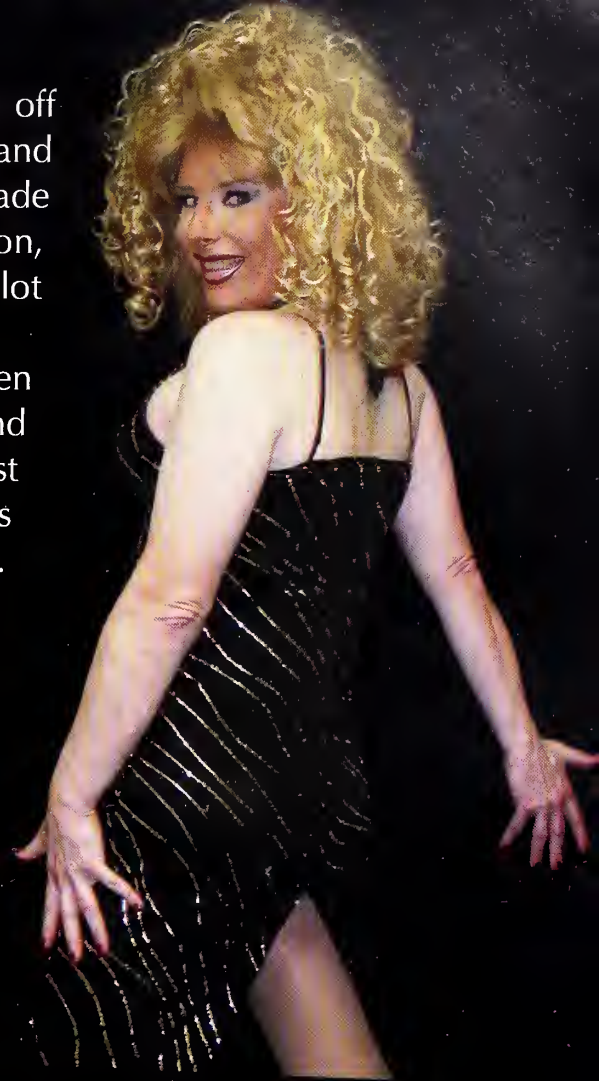
read or people staring will go mostly unfounded when you are confident and acting like a woman.

LL: Those are all good things for our readers to make a note of, especially your "positive intent" idea. If we think we're doing something wrong when we go out dressed then we end up projecting that and then people wonder what's strange about that woman? That leads to the very thing we try to avoid. We have space for one final thought.

J: Try doing what you've dreamed about and be thankful whether you end up dressing up or not. We live in a society where we speak of self-expression and this is it. If crossdressing is not for you then you will know it rather than always wondering.

LL: Thanks for taking the time to chat with us today, Joanna.

J: Thanks for inviting me to be a *LadyLike* Profile Girl!





# Coccinelle

August 23 1931 - October 9, 2006

On October 9, 2006 the famed and fabulous French, transgender showgirl Coccinelle (French for ladybird) passed away in Marseille, France, at the age of seventy-five. She had been hospitalized since July of that year after suffering a stroke. She was world renowned throughout the late 1950s and 60s, first for her widely publicized gender reassignment surgery in 1958 (performed in Casablanca by Dr. Georges Burou) and subsequently for the effect her transformation had on French law. After her operation the law was changed so that details on birth certificates could be altered to accommodate gender switches and name changes.



Jacques-Charles Dufresnoy was born in Paris on August 23 1931. By the age of four the boy had realized that something was amiss with his gender and as soon as he could he began to dress in feminine clothing. His favorite outfit, a red and black polka-dot dress inspired the nickname he would adopt when he debuted on stage at Chez Madame Arthur as Coccinelle, the transgender showgirl, in 1953. (Chez Madame Arthur is still presenting drag cabaret in Paris.)

After her surgery Coccinelle, now legally Jacqueline-Charlotte Dufresnoy, starred in a new stage act in Paris based on the sex symbols of the day making use of her resemblance to Marilyn Monroe and Brigitte Bardot. Not content to impersonate these ladies on stage Coccinelle expanded her show business pursuits and went on to appear in several films and record several record albums.

In 1960 she was married to French sports journalist François Bonnet in a ceremony at the Notre Dame Cathedral. Her daring off-the-nipple gown caused a sensation, according to her contemporary and sister-transsexual April Ashley. Like the famous ladies she portrayed Coccinelle couldn't settle down with one man and was married two more times.

Coccinelle toured the world for twenty-five years, from the 1960s till her final performance in 1990. She became a hit in South America and spent ten years in German cabaret. One night the Shah of Iran was in her audience.

Off stage Coccinelle worked as an activist on behalf of trans-



gendered people. She founded "Devenir Femme", an organization designed to provide emotional and practical support for those seeking reassignment surgery. She also helped establish the Center for Aid, Research, and Information for Transsexuality and Gender Identity. Her autobiography, Coccinelle by Coccinelle, was published in 1987. More information on Coccinelle along with many photos from her career can be found on her official website: <http://www.coccinelleshow.com/>.





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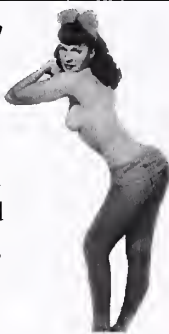
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# Dina's Diner

The anti-transgender lobby is becoming more and more brazen. Even in the traditionally liberal stronghold of New York City, the mayor and city council wants to ban transfats from the five boroughs of Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, and the Bronx. And now, the corporate parent of Kentucky Fried Chicken has also announced that transfats will no longer be welcome. Transfats have become a staple of American culture. The legendary transfat, Divine, remains an icon long after her untimely death. An entire sub-culture of transfats—seemingly half the drag queens I see on the Internet—cannot and should not be denied entrance to public establishments, particularly restaurants, where they literally maintain the transfat-ness that makes them great.

This reactionary movement may have migrated all the way to Australia. A recent news report from the land down under told of a young man stopped by police solely as a result of his trans status. The poor lad was attempting to drive in reverse across



Divine

the outback after his tranny went pfffft! With this transmission not allowing him to drive forward—he turned around, threw it into reverse and off he went. That is, until the Aussie constabulary stopped him for the simple crime of possessing a bad tranny.

U g g g h h ,  
enough with

the tortured trans-humor. (If you can call it that). I apologize... but truth is stranger than fiction and the rest of the column is pure gold. In fact, reading this column will be a transformative experience, leading to a transcendent state of mind, an opportunity at transmogrification that cannot be passed up for some other transitory state of gratification... in other words, read on, girls.

## **HALLOWEEN COMES BUT ONCE A YEAR— SADLY**

As I write this, Halloween 2006 is just a few days away and as you read this we will all be anxiously awaiting its 2007 return. In the past several years, Halloween has become a big business and a much-celebrated party night for adults even more than for kids.

Social commentators have begun to notice the decidedly sexy turn that women's Halloween costumes have taken. The *New York Times* published an article on October 19, 2006 headlined "Good Girls Go Bad, For a Day." Under a photo of a model in a sexy witch costume is this



caption: "Halloween is a day to flaunt your inner vixen." And Linda Scott, an author on fashion and feminism topics, is quoted as saying, "It's a night when even a nice girl can dress like a dominatrix and still hold her head up next morning."

Sociologist Dr. Adie Nelson said, "Decades after



the second wave of the women's movement, you would expect more of a gender-neutral range of costumes." Dr. Nelson wrote a paper for a sociology review about costume trends and concluded that gender typing for Halloween happens in children's costumes. Many of the female icons that little girls look up to are rooted in femme-fatale imagery. She points out that although brides are a typical girl's costume, there are almost no corresponding groom costumes for boys.

Another study found that teenage girls only understood "being sexy" in terms of how they appeared to others, rather than how they felt about themselves. The thirty subjects understood the idea of looking sexy but not feeling sexy inside. This may or may not explain why adult women have taken the sexy Halloween costume as pretty much of a given when that hallowed day rolls around. The Times article notes that comedian Carlos Mencia jokes that Halloween should be called "National Dress Like a Whore Day."

Some women interviewed for the article talked about the sex appeal of their costumes. "I'm not normally going to wear a corset when I go out" said one woman. "Even though you're in a costume at a bar or a party, you still want to look cute and sexy and feminine." A college coed said, "Almost everybody gets dressed up really, really sexy for it—even girls who wouldn't dream of going to class without their pearls and pullovers."

Some of the sociologists look for something positive in this seemingly backward step for feminism. Professor Pat Gill of the University of Illinois said that women think that showing their bodies is "a mark of independence, security, and confidence." Author Deborah Tolman said that some women may be using Halloween as a "safe space" in which to play with sexuality and "make fun of this bill of goods that's being sold to them." But Dr. Adie Nelson has her doubts. She said, "I love to imagine that there's some real social message, that it's sort of the female equivalent of doing drag [watch it, sister!], but I don't think it's necessarily so well thought out."

### **WIGGIN' OUT KOREAN STYLE**

The website donga.com carried an article about Korean teens who have taken to wearing wigs to get around strict school style codes. According to the article, about 100 Korean wig makers are

selling about 1,200 different styles and an online wig retailer reported that they are selling as many as two hundred a day.

One female second year high school student the article mentions has five wigs in her bag. She showed the reporter the five including three hair extension pieces, a long wavy wig, and a long straight wig, any of which she can slip into depending on her mood after school on any given day. She said that almost half of her classmates have more than one kind of wig because they cannot have their hair done as they please owing to strict school regulations on student hairstyles. "I wear a long wavy hair wig when I meet my boyfriend, which he likes, but I wear a straight hair wig when I want to look like a pure, innocent girl," she said.

The popular wigs are patterned after Korean pop icons both female and male. One of the male wig fashions is patterned after Lee Jun-Gi, about whom I wrote in *Ladylike* #67. Oddly enough, the wig fad was prompted by the World Cup Soccer matches in Seoul when national fans wore crazily colored and crafted wigs to show support for the teams. Then the teens picked it up as an easy way to transform their looks and (no doubt) madden their parents and school officials.

The article points out an almost predictable byproduct of the wig sensation. "These boys and girls are accustomed to putting on wigs and taking pictures of themselves."

Now that is a great idea. Maybe we crossdressers should try that sometime.

### **RIGHT BACK ON THAT HORSE**

The Associated Press carried an article about an "incorrigible" transgender con artist on September 28, 2006. Dee Deirdre Farmer, 41, of Baltimore, Maryland was arrested for trying to use a forged death certificate (for her own death!) in a scheme to avoid other fraud charges outstanding against her.

Ms. Farmer was released from her last prison sentence in early 2005 because the judge believed she was dying of AIDS and granted her release to be with her family and turn a new leaf after a checkered career as a con artist. Apparently, the imminent AIDS death was another of her cons because she has been actively plying her trade with at least five fraudulent schemes in the year



and half since her release.

One scheme was to use his male persona of Larry Prescott to get a death certificate for Dee, the female persona, so that she could avoid prosecution for fraud charges in Maryland—a scheme she successfully used to avoid prosecution in Virginia. You gotta admit it—that's a pretty neat idea.

While serving a 20 year hitch in federal prison in the 80's and 90's, Ms. Farmer won a U. S. Supreme Court judgment allowing her to sue the federal prison system for failing to protect her (a pre-operative transsexual serving time in a men's prison) after she was gang-raped in jail. She lost the suit at trial.

She was discovered to be running a jewelry theft con from her jail cell while she was being held on the 1986 charge that landed her a 20-30 year sentence. At the time of her release from that sentence in 2005, the judge said he believed her life expectancy was "very, very short." The attorney who worked to gain that release for Farmer, said he had looked forward to her getting a chance for peace and to return home to be with her family. The prosecutor who opposed the release said simply "He is just a con man. Incurable."

### **THE NEXT ENDANGERED SPECIES—THE SHOWGIRL**

I think the *New York Times* may be my favorite new source of material for this column. In the Sunday, August 13 (my birthday!) edition, the "Arts and Leisure" section had a centerpiece article on the decline and fall of the Las Vegas showgirl. It was headlined thusly: "The Twilight of the Ostrich-Plumed, Rhinestone-Brassiered Las Vegas Showgirl." Twilight, you say?

Apparently, the "new" Las Vegas—that family-friendly destination that has 24-hour gambling and legalized prostitution just a short drive in the suburbs—has tired of the gaudy old-school casino showgirl reviews. *The*



*Times* article caught the 25th anniversary of Bally's "Jubilee" showgirl review and lamented that it was the last vestige of the pure Las Vegas showgirl, made famous in pop culture for most of our lifetimes.

The trouble is an age-old marketing conundrum. The classic showgirl—who showed a little breast and a lot of fancy costuming—has been caught in the middle of raunchier strip clubs and the PG-13 environment of

*Cirque Du Soleil* and other casino shows that are more family-oriented. Most marketing experts will tell you that the 'middle-of-the road' is a no-man's land of shrinking customers and profit margins.

So "Jubilee", a show that started out slowly in the early 80's and gradually built an audience based on the old formula of beautiful showgirls, bare breasts, and extravagant costuming, has essentially run its course as audiences seek either dirtier or cleaner entertainment in Sin City. Caught in the middle are the showgirls. Many are classically trained dancers who are trying to survive in a competitive environment. Despite the glamour of the showgirl image, many of the dancers need to work a day job in addition to their gaudier nighttime profession in order to make ends meet.

*The Times* piece followed a few of the dancers in the course of the article and some are married, some are mothers, all of them are daughters, who have to live in a world that combines their mundane lives with being a part of a cultural fantasy. It seems so glamorous from afar... but for these ladies, wearing a heavy feathered headdress, rhinestone flecked costume and fishnet hose is just another day on the job. A job that may not be around much longer.

### **ANOTHER REVERSE ROLE MODEL**

*The Daily Telegraph* newspaper from somewhere in Australia reported that a post-operative





transsexual being held on murder charges was denied parole in September 2006. The prisoner, Maddison Hall—formerly Noel Crompton—had been able to fund his/her sexual reassignment surgery while in prison after winning an undisclosed settlement from the prison system for “psychological trauma.”

As with so many wily criminals, the story is full of twists and turns and unbelievable chutzpah. Crompton was found guilty of murdering a hitchhiker in 1987 for which he received a 20-year sentence. While in prison, Crompton identified himself as a transsexual and was moved to a women’s facility. While in the women’s facility he was accused of sexual assault, although the charges could were never proven. It was even alleged that he fathered a child by a prisoner who was later released and this allegation could never be proven either. For a MtF transsexual, he seemed to be making good use of the equipment while he still had it.

Then he sued the prison for the “psychological trauma” noted above. Presumably the trauma was that he could not fulfill his dream of becoming a chick. For reasons unknown, the prison decided to settle with the convicted murderer and Crompton was able to get the operation. After the SRS, he changed his name to Maddison Hall.

According to the news report, the only reason Crompton/Hall did not win his parole was that the halfway facility he was slated to attend was full and they had no place to send him. So he remains in prison until his next parole hearing in fifteen months. The mother of Crompton’s murder victim said, “Sanity has prevailed. I am relieved that this person will not be released into your community.”

Maddison Hall wrote a letter to an Australian gender center that was posted—then pulled off—their website. The letter related Hall’s feelings about her SRS and treatment in prison. Here are some quotes: “While I didn’t wake up as Elle McPherson, I did wake up with a feeling of completeness that was lacking in my life previously.” About the prison staff, she said this: “I had to endure being treated as a third gender, degraded and humiliated. To this day a percentage of correctional staff can’t seem to accept or abide by any policy or legislation that allows me any rights as a transgender woman. To

have a bureaucracy continually deny who I am and what I needed for myself is very hard to deal with.” Imagine how hard it would be to deal with if someone had shot him in the head, as he was convicted of doing to a young man 20 years ago. **CHECK HER OUT, MAN, SHE MUST BE OVULATING!**

The next time you see a hot chick (or even a not-so-hot-chick) wearing something sexy, she might have a higher purpose in mind. According to a *Reuters* wire service article on October 10, 2006, U. S. researchers said a recent study points out that signs of human female ovulation may not be as mysterious as some scientists believe.

Apparently, in the animal kingdom, females have visible cues for males to know when they are ovulating and fertile. Human female ovulation patterns are much more subtle—as the recent research project discovered.

The University of California at Los Angeles study of young college women showed they frequently wore more fashionable or flashier clothing and jewelry when they were ovulating, as assessed by a panel of men and women looking at their photographs. “They tend to put on skirts instead of pants, show more skin and generally dress more fashionably,” said Martie Haselton, a communication studies and psychology expert at UCLA who led the study. Writing in the journal *Hormones and Behavior*, Haselton and her colleagues said their findings disproved the conventional wisdom that women are unique among animals in concealing, even from themselves, when they are most fertile.

The article pointed out that the difficulty in recognizing the outward signs of human female ovulation (for both women and men) results in the frequent occurrence of unintended pregnancies.

This is useful information, my friends. For example, I saw a movie last night on Cinemax where I could easily see that all the actresses were ovulating because they were each of them wearing high heels and short skirts—a dead giveaway in the ovulation-spotting game. Come to think of it, if fancy female dress was any indication, most of the drag shows and crossdresser support meetings I’ve witnessed would lead me to believe that everyone was in full ovulation mode. Maybe those researchers discovered something much more significant than anyone thought.



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## Night Moves

### **Minneapolis: The Gay 90s**

by Leigh Smythe, a Twin Cities TG

The Gay 90s in downtown Minneapolis is probably the premier GLBT experience in the twin cities. This club has two large floors that include a theater, with tables, for the drag shows scheduled Tuesday through Sunday, three dance floors, two restaurants, seven bars, male strippers and attendance by a general mixed population on weekends. In the Twin Cities, all bars and restaurants are smoke free, by law, so the entire facility is smoke free, but an outside roped area is available for smokers. (It is nice to be able to not have to wash your wigs and clothes after each visit.) There is parking available and there is a cover charge. Public transportation is easily available (cabs, busses and trains).



*Leigh Smythe (L) and drag show MC  
Blanch Cassadine (R).*

Although I have stated that this is the premier club for GLBTers, it is not the most popular and well attended gay male club, a distinction that belongs to The Saloon, a few blocks south on Hennepin Avenue. Many gay males bounce from one to the other to get a full sample of the opportunities offered by both places.

I have been to The Gay 90s only on Fridays and Saturdays. I understand from speaking with others that the weekdays are more low key and primarily attended by gay males, but the times I have been there on weekends the general public—audience and customers—included gay males, lesbians, transgendered, and straight couples. I have met and danced with wedding parties, groups of straight females out to have fun, local TG girls and TG visitors from other states, and those gay males, who seem to prefer TGs. Saturday, the fourth of November, I met Veronica from Las Vegas, danced with my group of TG friends, and with a bride and her bridesmaids out for fun. Being a straight crossdresser I prefer the second floor Techno dance bar, the Retro Bar, but my gay friends like the first floor dance floors and male stripper shows. The restaurants are good, but not renowned.

The drag show at Gay 90s is a good one. I met with Blanch Cassadine, the MC for the drag shows. She starts the show with a very compelling Cher routine and works the audience to keep the show moving. Blanch has been doing shows for the last twelve years around the Twin Cities and has been MCing in this venue for the last year.

**The Gay 90s**

**408 Hennepin Ave.**

**Minneapolis, MN 55401**

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**Web: [www.gay90s.com/index.html](http://www.gay90s.com/index.html)**



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# Reality Check

XXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXX

*Angela Gardner*



Hi ho my little sprouts! It's that time again—time to get cozy, fix a cup of herb tea (or a cocktail), curl up on the couch and read your new issue of *LadyLike*.

Last issue I asked you all to take advantage of the ease and convenience of email to send us your photos and letters. A few of you (including our resident fox, Foxy Roxy) sent their photos via the Net and that has made our lives much easier. Thank you! To jump on the Internet bandwagon just attach your pictures to an email and send it directly to me: [angela@cdspub.com](mailto:angela@cdspub.com). I will reply to let you know we got the pictures and confirm that they are high enough quality. If you don't hear from me then something went askew and your email did not arrive so please send it again. The Internet is great and good but sometimes the electrons get distracted and go somewhere else. Or something technical like that.

Speaking of technical web stuff, this year we are launching a *LadyLike* website. We have had a page on the CDS site for years but now we are working on a site just for the magazine that will bring more of the *LadyLike* experience directly to your computer screen. We're not stopping the print version of LL but while we were urging you to get into the

21st century we realized that we should get on the Internet bandwagon to make LL more available to those who rely more and more on their computers for information and entertainment.

The *LadyLike* website will always be a work in progress as we will continue to develop it and add things that are fun and informative. The site will compliment the print version of *LadyLike* and give readers more ways to interact with us and each other. Drop in after you finish this issue and see what goodies we've got in *LadyLike* online. Just point your browser to **[www.llmag.com](http://www.llmag.com)**.

*LadyLike* is on a mission! (Dramatic, huh?) Seriously, *LadyLike* was created to give the crossdressing community an entertaining and informative magazine that you can always trust to deliver the straight scoop on transgender issues. In order to carry out that high-level, missionary, lofty, ideal we have to rely on the grimy engine of capitalism. Translation: We sell advertising. The people who buy ads in *LadyLike* are all geared toward serving various needs in the community. You can find everything a crossdresser could want in *LadyLike* ads; from clothing and shoes, to makeup and corsets, to videos and plastic surgery. All of the advertisers in our pages are here because they want to be your go-to places for the things you want, and they are all sensitive to the concerns of the TG community. So don't be afraid to call them with a question or to place an order. They want your business so patronize them and take advantage of their services—and be sure to mention *LadyLike* magazine. By mentioning *LadyLike* you let them know that their advertising dollars are spent wisely and



assure us that they will return to our pages in future issues. It's their ad dollars that pay the majority of what it costs to create LadyLike and get it into your hands every quarter.

Speaking of advertisers, we welcome a new one to our pages this issue. **Pierre's Costumes** is Philadelphia's largest theatrical costume supplier. When people want mascots for sports teams, or wardrobe for theatrical productions they come to Pierre's. Pierre's has become aware of the TG community and now they're reaching out to let us know about everything else they have to offer. Pierre's carries sexy shoes in sizes up to **16**, wigs (both costume and street wear), sexy lingerie and corsets, and all the professional quality makeup you need to cover the darkest beard. And the great thing is that while you're welcome at anytime in their Philadelphia store they're also on the Internet with a full catalog so you can shop from anywhere with a web connection. If you want a pirate wench costume or a dress like Queen Elizabeth wore, they've got that, too. Check out their ad in the next column and visit their site ([www.costumers.com](http://www.costumers.com)) and be sure to say you read about them in *LadyLike*. Oh, did I mention that their prices are great? They have wigs and shoes at some of the lowest prices I've ever seen. Check them out!

With all the business out of the way it's time to move on to some fun! This issue we bring you the lovely Joanna Stewart as our Profile girl, Dina's Diner is serving up some hot dishes and we have a club review in Night Moves from our newest correspondent Leigh Smythe. Sadly there is also an obituary. Famed French TG performer Coccinelle has passed away and we bring you some photos from her illustrious career. It just goes to show that if the new *LadyLike* is in your hand you should read it right now. Time waits for no tran. Oh no! That's gonna get me a citation from the Silly Patrol. I'm beginning to babble so I had better quit now and let you read on!



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# Letters

She Waxes Poetic—And Waxes

Her Legs

Dear LadyLike,

Here is my renewal for another year of *LadyLike*, a month later than usual, with good reason: A vacation in the Midwest at the height of the recent heat wave, in a 40-year-old classic muscle car whose air conditioner failed after leaving home, but before leaving California! Only now has recovery become assured.

I am enclosing pictures taken last spring, which I hope portray my extra-ordinary life in an ordinary fashion, as part of the world in which I exist. To the extent my body and X factors allow me, I hope I meld into the lady-like fabric of the community. I am a successful lady, secure in whom she appears to be, confident in walk and stature, as graceful and refined as any other middle-aged, respected professional woman.

The photo location is a community zoological garden and redwood forest. The first one was taken standing by the new entrance, the second seated on a garden picnic bench in front of the animal enclosure, the third standing at a far edge of the forest viewing local



rhododendrons in late spring bloom. In the last one, I am standing by a fountain flowing from an ancient tree stump, which was created years ago by a local artisan to depict the flow of water over the canyon precipice, cascading into a secret pool of quiet and solitude within the forest. The tranquility

created is marred only by the sounds of severance of the surface by the water falling, as the new puddles created flow like gentle and languid waves to the far shore, to break and slowly return to the source again and again. The rightness of total being and peacefulness of place is that of serenity, beauty, acceptance, and release. I am a complete person, at last. It is hard to believe this fountain, as deep in the forest as it appears, is remote from the frenetic cacophony of modern mechanical haste to achieve tomorrow long before it arrives, by only a few hundred yards! Most of that legion of ants have no idea this reflecting pool even exists so close!

I hope I have not waxed poetic so far afield that I have forgotten to say thank you for *LadyLike*, which I have enjoyed almost from the beginning. I am lacking only a few issues in the first ten. Over the years, you and I have grown and matured together, we are better, more polished in our presentations, happier. We both are at peace with the world.

With love and affection,

Lois Fisher, N. Calif.

#206

Ah, we knew that we would never see, a poem as love-uh-lee as thee! How can you help but be poetic when you're at peace with the world and wearing ladies clothing? Thanks for sticking with *LL* and for being *LadyLike*!

New Girl From Fla.

Dear Friends at *LadyLike*,

A friend who is also a CD got me into your wonderful magazine. I love the Profiles and the Mirror-Mirror section, and all the great photos! I'm 38 years old and have been crossdressing since I was fourteen. I've just recently started taking hormones and I'll be living full time very soon.

Enclosed are a few photos. Hopefully you'll have room for them in a future issue.

Love,  
Gina Taylor  
PO Box 494396  
Port Charlotte, FL  
33949





## She's Tied The Knot

Greetings JoAnn, Angela, and Astra,  
Kudos on publishing such a fine magazine for girls like us! Your articles and letters are insightful and a delight to read. I especially enjoy viewing all the pretty ladies out there, too!

In 2001, I decided it was time to step out of the closet after tiring of removing my nail polish every time I went outdoors. Not only was it a thrill but it was the best thing I ever did for Valarie! Secrets are nothing but a slow death and I never looked back after that day. A year later I met a wonderful woman who accepted me 100% and encouraged my femme side by giving me gifts such as perfume, lingerie, dresses, flowers and an engraved ankle bracelet with both our



names upon it. I just had to put a ring on her finger and we later tied the knot in the Bahamas. Finding her was a true blessing and made me very happy indeed. Anything is possible!

Since I am retired I can dress "en femme" every day and pursue my alternate lifestyle. My hobbies include playing my guitar and piano, watching old movies, fishing, gardening and of course shopping at the mall with my wife for new outfits. I'm also a bird enthusiast and have six here including a ringneck parrot. I also collect and breed tropical fish which is a lot of fun! I derive a great pleasure from corresponding with my "girl friends" and will answer any letters I may receive.

Well, it's time to water my



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# Letters

flowers and play in the dirt so keep up the great work. To all my sisters who read this, be well and stay femme.

As always,

Valarie Collins

26 Columbus Ave.

Farmingdale, NY 11738

Wow Valerie, with all those hobbies how do you find time to do your nails? Shopping for bargains takes all my time so I can't imagine taking care of all that other stuff. Watch out for the bird flu and don't let the birds eat any of the fish! And, all you girls out there, remember what Valerie says, "Anything is possible". If you're honest and not burdened by secrets you may meet that special someone. Congratulations Val!

## No Boys Allowed!

Dear Angela and JoAnn,

Thank you for printing my pictures in Issue #66 of *LadyLike*. I've enclosed a couple more. I now have a PO box address with the pictures. I'm not interested in hearing from male admirers (sorry guys) but enjoy corresponding with other sisters and GGs.

Thanks and keep up the great work!

Kristen Ashley Embers

PMB 112

8917 S. Old State Rd.

Lewis Center, OH 43035

## Omi God! Judy Collins!

Dear Angela,

Hi, my name is Judy Collins. You probably don't remember me but over the years I have occasionally graced the pages of your lovely magazine. I just received issue #67 and was reading your article as I was having my morning tea in my favorite morning outfit, bra and panties and floppy-eared, fuzzy bunny slippers. A lot has happened for me, as Judy, in the last year and it's so easy to slip into the world of women and forget the sisters that are still struggling with identity issues. I too struggled many years, but I know now who I am and am going in the right direction. I don't want to forget where I came from, hence the continuing subscription to *LadyLike*. A real "Reality Check" if I may quote you. Well to make a story short, about a year ago I had some boudoir photos taken and thought I would like to share them with your readers (maybe a cover girl?). I hope you can use my photos and you are as lovely as always. My subscription number is 3768. Keep up the great work.

Big hugs,

Judy

Thanks Judy. We thought for a minute that you were the folk



singer of the same name, and though let down that you're not her we're still excited to hear from one of our readers who hasn't sent her photos in for awhile. Say hello to your bunny slippers for us!

## She's Inspired

Dear JoAnn and Angela

I enclose two pictures of me for *LadyLike*. Your magazine has been very inspirational to me. I have been out in public because of it. My feminine self has been filled with friendship, laughter and self confidence. Thank you. I will reply to all who write. Keep up the great work!

Love,

Jackie Marshal

237 Alamitos Ave.

Long Beach, CA

90802





## Her Wife Is Starting To Bribe Her With Dresses

Dear Angela,

I discovered *LadyLike* about two years ago when I purchased a 3-pack of magazines. Issue #57 was tucked between the others; what a great find! There was dignity in all the articles and letters. I found a local book store that stocks *LadyLike* and every second Tuesday of every third month I am there to buy my issue. Even though I can't subscribe at this time I have not missed an issue. *LadyLike* is the only magazine I need now purchase, it has everything I need to know about the community. Night Moves, Reality Check, Dina's Diner, Glamour Bits, On My Mind, Letters, Mirror-Mirror, and even Lexy, have all become part of my life. Every time I received a new issue I just love to get "dressed", relax in my favorite chair and just read every word. It allows me to vicariously get out and feel accepted and for this I want to thank you (Angela, JoAnn and Astra).

I, like so many others, have had to hide what I am. However, in reading the articles and letters and seeing the pictures in Mirror-Mirror I have decided to try to open up a little. I am in my mid-fifties which I thought was too late to try to accept myself, *LadyLike* has shown me it is never to late.

My wife has known for 30 years and has tolerated but has always wished it would just go away. Recently she has been much more open and does allow me to have a "pajama party" about once a month. She will not help me dress or do makeup, but she has started to buy me things and it is great. I decided to lose some weight, I lost 10 pounds and told her I wanted to lose 20 more. Her response was "Do it and I will buy you a dress." I couldn't believe my ears, life is just so much better since I have opened just a little. I credit the above to the confidence your magazine give me. Maybe the next letter will contain a picture of me in the dress. Thank you again.

Always with hugs,

Carolyn Kay

SpecialKmi2@aol.com

We're looking forward to it Carolyn. Be sure to smile!

## Seventy One? Yer Kiddin'

Dear JoAnn and Angela,

Thank you so much for your wonderful magazine. It is truly a classy publication that is a real boon to crossdressers such as myself. Also, thank you for publishing my photos in Mirror-Mirror. All of my photos and makeovers of the last few years have been done at a transformation salon. They make me look younger than my seventy-one years. I never fear going



out in public after yhey have done my makeover. I really enjoy going out dressed!

Love,

Roberta #3637

## Foxy Roxy Unfair To The Rest!

Dear Angela,

As a devoted reader and long time subscriber of *LadyLike*, I felt an obligation to send photos when asked. I hope you find at least one or two that you feel meet your high standards and are worthy to be seen alongside of the other lovely girls of *LadyLike*.

It is always such a treat to receive each new issue when they arrive in my P.O. Box. I have corresponded with many of the girls that regularly frequent the Mirror-Mirror section, and it is such fun to see their latest photos. It is amazing how their feminine appearances have improved over the years with practice, and the advice that we have obtained from the many interesting articles that you have published.

Roxy's latest adventures are always exciting. She has the courage that many of us lack in strutting her stuff, and stuff she has by the ton. Her photos are so



# Letters

gorgeous; it is almost unfair to the rest of us. Speaking of gorgeous photos, there is almost always one or more of Candy. How she can look so fantastic is beyond my comprehension and way beyond my meager attempts at femininity.

I also want to mention a book that I read not long ago that I think some of your readers might find enjoyable. It is called "Trans Sister Radio" and the author is Cris Bohajalian. It is a story of a journey to womanhood by a transsexual in Vermont. It is written in a very interesting way and the outcome has an



interesting twist.

As JoAnn indicated in Issue #67, I know that the Internet has reduced your readership, but I appreciate your willingness to continue to provide such a quality magazine for those of us who treasure each issue. Thanks for all the enjoyment and the help you have provided to those of us who have been confused about gender issues for most of our lives.

Best wishes, Jackie #3392

We don't think of Foxy Roxy as unfair to the rest of us but rather as an inspiration to a higher standard of femininity for we ladies who are differently gendered. Of course sometimes she gets a little reckless and we worry about her. (Read the adventure in this issue!) But you can't go wrong if you study her and use her as an example to emulate.

Girl, You'll Be A Woman Soon

Hi Angela,

Angela Foxx here from St. Louis, Missouri. Just received issue 67 on the 15th of October, once again a awesome job! I'll be sending my renewal for the next four issues very soon, I don't want to miss any news. I've been reading LL since 1997.



Angela Foxx and her fella Bill.

So much has changed for me in that nine years, from being that scared little CD afraid of making that *big* first step in public, to March 15th of this year starting my transition to womanhood! I've had my bumps in between (won't bore you with that) to finding the love of my life (Bill) five-plus years ago, to whom I'm owe everything. I also want to say to all those girls (and guys) I appreciate all your letters and pictures. I try to answer as many as I can but it can be hard at times.

Angela, thanks again for your *wonderful* magazine and if you're ever in St. Louis for an extended time, I'd think it would neat to show you around town! Last, I'm sending a few pics, I hope you can use them.

'Til next time,

XOXOXO

Angela A. Foxx

P.O. Box 514

Chesterfield, MO 63006

We can always use sexy shots of Miss Angela Foxx. And we want to run the wedding pictures when you kids tie the knot. See you in St. Louis!

Those Free Copies of LL at Conventions Pay Off

Dear Editor,

What an interesting magazine. I am responding to





Whisper Leigh Smythe,  
wleighh111@yahoo.com

your article in issue #65, Spring Issue. I am sending two pictures. You probab-leigh get inundated with them, but here are mine. You may post them to an issue, as you choose.

My name is Whisper Leigh Smythe. I'm no one real-leigh, but I was moved by your magazine. I'm so glad to see this in a print form. I'm actual-leigh a contributing author to two month-leigh magazines connected with yahoo groups. They're fair-leigh large

groups of more than 6,500 members. I enjoy immense-leigh being able to contribute to these magazines and think they are great. Yours is a print vehicle, though. I had not seen one before. When I went to the Be All, in Chicago, they handed them out with the paid admission. Very nice.

Here are my personal links. Yahoo profile and flicker page:

<http://profiles.yahoo.com/wleighh111?warn=1>

[http://www.flickr.com/photos/whisper\\_leigh\\_smythe/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/whisper_leigh_smythe/)

Thanks,

Leigh Smythe

Thanks Leigh. We're glad you enjoyed LadyLike and used the ease of modern email to send us your letter and photos. Unfortunate-leigh the pics you sent were of too low resolution to be reproduced. But, despair not, your Flickr site had larger images and we were able to use a couple of those so one appears here and the other is in Mirror-Mirror.

### Use Email and Save!

Several of the letters above arrived via email. Remember, the fastest and easiest way to send your letters and photos to LadyLike is to email them to [angela@cdspub.com](mailto:angela@cdspub.com). You'll always get a response to let you know we got them. If you don't hear from us then the Internet gods have sent your pictures and letter to some dead letter box so please resend till you get a reply.

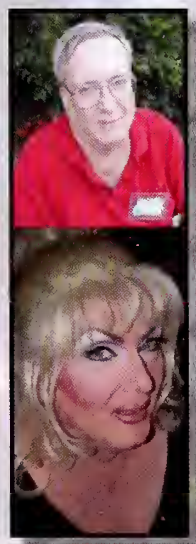
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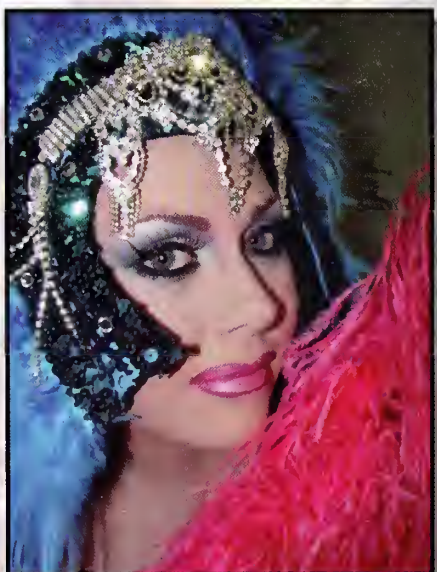
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## How To Submit Photos

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*Our correspondent in the Northwest shares her experience with a Saturday afternoon MAC cosmetics makeover in...*

## M•A•C ATTACK!

*By Barbara Anne Love*

Being a senior tranny and stepping from one gender role to another as the circumstances dictate can make for some very interesting, and certainly exciting experiences. Yet nothing I had experienced over the past three years could have adequately prepared me for my recent trans-adventure at the South-center Nordstrom's MAC cosmetic counter.

Let's rewind two weeks to bring everything into proper perspective. Two seemingly unrelated events transpired to produce the ultimate MAC attack. First was a visit to South-center, in "drab-mode", with my SO on a Macy's gift-certificate shopping event. I was asked to, "get lost" for an hour or so while she shopped. Even in male mode this was no problem. The thought of looking over Nordstrom's shoe selection—with a quick glance at the lingerie selection—seemed most enticing, yet I was totally unprepared for the spectacle of the three-deep frontal assaults occurring at all the cosmetic counters. It was like a beauty tsunami had hit! The MAC counter even had two Johnny Depp look-a-likes dispensing beauty-from-a-jar. Due to a recurrent problem with lower lid eyeliner I finally asked one of the lovely MAC ladies for some help, and some not insignificant cash expenditure later I had an answer to the lower lid problem—and a date for a make-over. Fortunately my good friends Willa and Lola had an event scheduled called the Little Black Dress Soiree. What would be a more perfect time for a makeover than the afternoon of the Soiree? Seemed like a good idea at the time!

The big day finally arrived and Barbara, attired in Vanderbilt jeans and thin blue heels sauntered, as casually as a tranny can under the circumstances, into the Saturday afternoon frenzy. There were MAC beauties to the left and drop-dead gorgeous customers to the right and center. If I could look a quarter as good as some of these stunning GG's I could venture into tranny Valhalla with peace in my heart and a smile on my moist, cranberry lips. Of course I was placed in THE center chair with a most attractive red-head on my left, and the most piercing set of blue eyes on my right. How would they react to a tranny intrusion? Could I make GG chit chat, or would I lapse into guy-mode prattle? Surprise! Everyone made me feel like one of the girls—what a splendid feeling. Then, the reigning Michelangelo, Shannon, came to work her magic on me. Considering all the hues and goodies spread out before us, doing the Sistine Chapel would have been a no-brainer, and at her speed it would have taken only a hour or two. As she worked I resisted the temptation to reach for a mirror. The job had to be done completely before peeking was allowed.

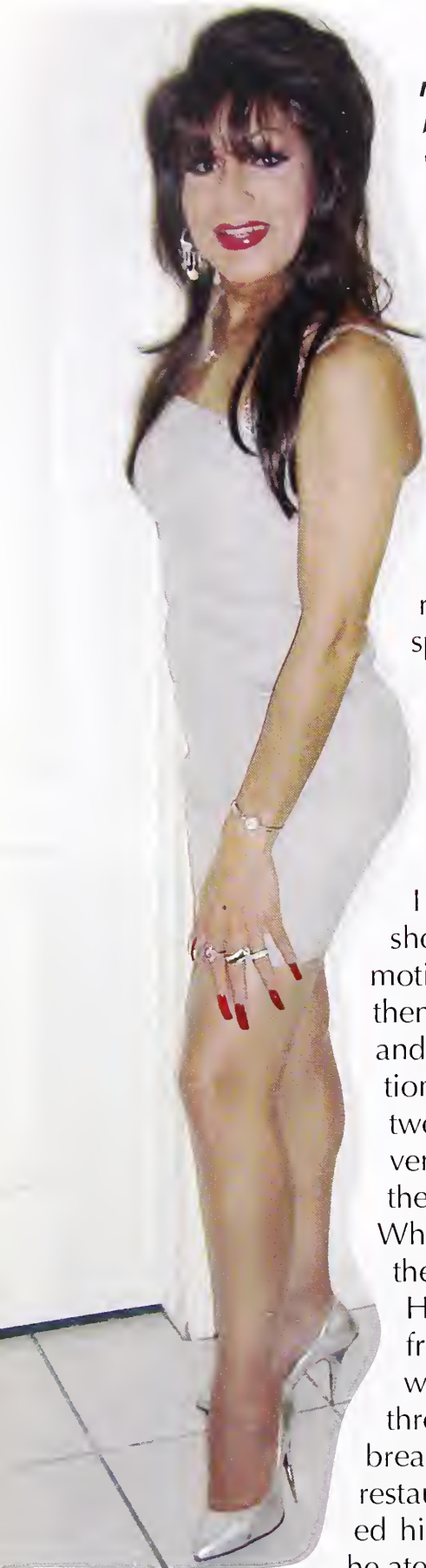
As the magic moment rapidly approached the sales staff began to give me some great, positive feedback—I almost had to change my pantyhose due to the intense level of excitement. Alright boys and girls, time to look. Holy @#!@, was that me or my sister? It was love at first sight! Everyone was just so complimentary—really, what else does a tranny live for! This was easily my fifteen minutes of fame, before my facial hair began to grow in, and damned if I wasn't going to enjoy every minute of it. Oh yes, I did drop a few coins on new lipstick, lip gloss, make-up, and application brushes; a small price to pay for

beauty and Shannon's effort. Literally floating back to the car is the best way to describe one's feelings!

All you new or confident ladies, this is a must do experience, though not recommended for a first time out-of-the-closet activity.







*Foxy Roxy starts the night in a rowdy sports bar, and things get wilder from there. You don't want to wait to read this edition of Foxy Roxy's...*

## Nightclub Adventures

A few weeks ago I was feeling adventurous and returned to a rowdy sports bar I hadn't visited in a while. I was sitting at the club sipping my cocktail, when across the bar, a man and his buddy sent me a drink. I raised my glass in a show of thanks, and they motioned for me to join them. Miriam the barmaid and other patrons cautioned me not to go, as the two men were tipsy and very loud. So, I smiled to the gents and stayed put. When one admirer left, the other approached. He recognized me from earlier this year, when I had gone with three straight friends to breakfast at an all-night restaurant. My friends invited him to our table, where he ate with us and picked up the tab—mine too!

Anyway, Henry, that's his name, is retired military. Korean war I think but still spunky and loud. He reintroduced himself and invited me to join him at his side of the bar.

"It's ok", I assured everyone concerned about

my safety, "I know Henry!"

Henry bought me drinks and kept singing "Roxanne" by the Police—badly, I might add, causing patrons to scowl in our direction. Shortly before closing at 2 a.m., the barmaid asked Henry "Shall I call you a cab?"

"No need," I volunteered (for some unknown reason). "I'll give my buddy a ride home".

Out in the lot was a late-model F-150 next to my car. "I wonder who's nice truck that is" I said to Henry.

"It's mine," he said. "I leave it here and take a cab home. I don't like to drive drunk. In the morning my daughter brings me to pick it up." Nice man this Henry, I thought to myself.

On the way to catch the freeway, we passed by another popular nightspot, a Mexican dance club with a live band.

"Swing in there," Henry ordered. "Let's have another drink."

"It's 2 a.m. and they're closing!" I cried. "They're not gonna let us in!"

"Oh, they'll let us in" he assured me. "I know the owner."

Lure of the Unknown

Joe, John & Mark is a dance club I always wanted to go into, but was afraid, for fear of getting turned away at the entrance. "We don't like your type", I imagined they would say. So, I thought, it's now or never. I hooked a 'U-ey' in the street and parked in front of the bar. Henry and I approached the entrance and against the exodus of patrons, he muscled his way in and I followed. Henry greeted the owner, Horst he called him, who was behind the bar, and introduced me. Horst gave me an untrusting hello. Henry arrogantly orders a couple of beers from Ruth the barmaid. She looks at Horst for approval and he signaled the ok. We were in and allowed to stay.





### VIP Treatment

It was 2:30 a.m. The bar was locked and the only ones inside were Horst the owner, Ruth the barmaid, two guys cleaning the bar, Henry and myself. Henry was given free reign. He fed the jukebox and bought so many beers, I lost count. At 4 a.m. Horst finished adding up the night's sales, turned off the lights and we all walked out together. Henry needed assistance getting into my vehicle but refused help from anyone. But once buckled in, I drove toward the freeway to take Henry to his house. We arrived a few minutes later and Henry offered me a 'nitecap'—can you believe?

"No thanks!" I said, "I going home now!", and rushed back out to my car.

### The Mystery Cruiser

On my way out of his neighborhood while stopped at a stop sign, a small sedan cruising in the opposite direction pulled up next to me, obviously wanting to make contact. Its windows were tinted so I couldn't see inside. Instinctively I stepped on the gas and pulled away onto the main thoroughfare. Looking

in my rearview mirror I noticed the little car made a U-turn to follow me. I figured I could lose it easily, with my big V8. The next intersection was deserted so I ran the light to stay ahead of the stalker. To my dismay I saw the mysterious

little car do the same! I stepped on the gas again, got on the freeway heading home, and reached speed-limit speed, comfortable that I'd seen the last of that suspicious little car. I set the cruise-control to 60 mph. After five to ten minutes down the freeway, I noticed that same little sedan was suddenly on my left side! If I sped up or slowed down, it would do the same. The driver wanted me to roll down my window or pull over. What am I gonna do, I thought? I changed lanes to exit on the next ramp, and the little car got behind me. Who the hell could it be? I don't recognize it and at 4:30 a.m. I don't care to investigate! I signaled, pretending to exit, and at the last second, I jerked the wheel to pull back onto the freeway, giving the little car no chance to change course. So, it exited. Figuring that its driver might return at the next on ramp, I stepped on the gas once again, zipping down the interstate at 80 mph at times. I made it home safely though, without being followed, pulled over or experiencing another blowout.

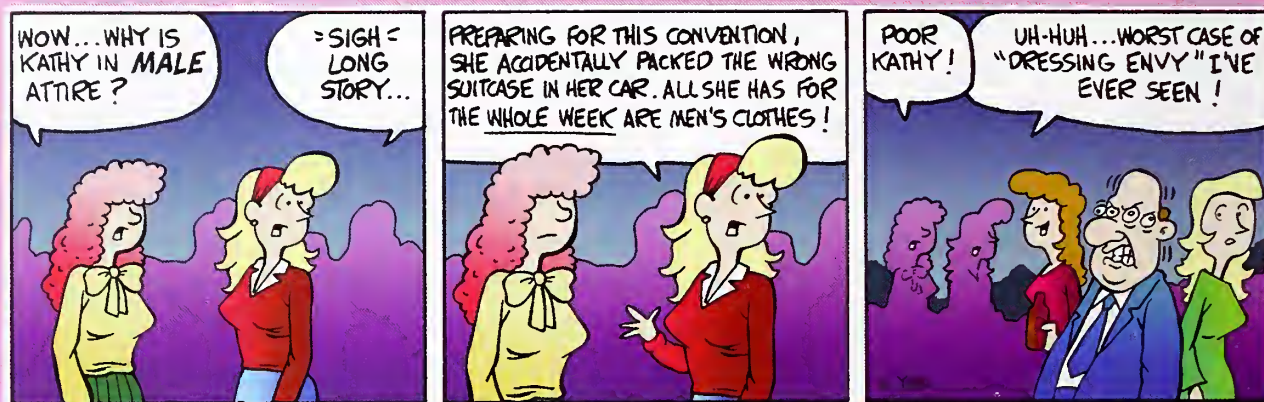
### Fake Cop

The following week I read in the local newspaper that two women, each driving home in the early morning hours, reported being stopped by a man impersonating a police officer! And one instance happened in the area where I first spotted that mysterious little car—Henry's neighborhood! The newspaper story said the fake cop used a different car each time and placed an emergency light on the dashboard to get women to pull over. Once stopped, he'd approach dressed in a dark, police-type uniform and flash a badge. Though he made sexual advances, no injuries were reported. Setting the paper down, I wondered, could that have been the same person that was pursuing me that night the week before? Who was he? Where did he come from? Had he seen me somewhere? I guess I'll never know.

### Moral of the Story

So, my dear amigas, please learn from my experiences. Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings. But most of all, let's all go home when the bars close! Remember, nothing good ever happens after 2 a.m.!





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Angela Foxx, St. Louis



Dina Amberle, hot  
LL columnist.



Barbara Anne Love,  
Kent, WA



Mirror  
Mirrors

Roberta #3637



Bobbie (L) and Katie (R) at the Henry David Halloween Ball.



Jackie Thomas #3392



Mary Alice





Roxanne Van Ness, as Holly.  
Canada #2124



Billie,  
PO Box 2490  
New York, NY 10009

Foxy Roxy and pals on Halloween.





Mirror  
Mirror



Roxanne #4603



Valarie Collins.  
26 Columbus Ave.,  
Farmingdale, NY 11738



Foxy Roxy: If the shoe fits...  
sit on it!



For  
Mirror  
Mirror



Judy Collins, #3768

Kalina Mouse at  
the Henry David  
Halloween Ball



Roxanne Van Ness, as  
Darla, Canada #2124



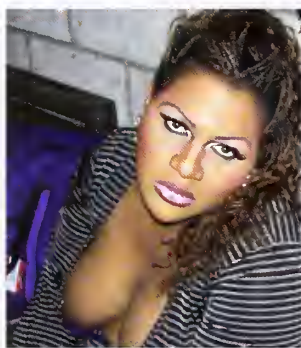




# *Current Queens* *by Vicky Vogue*

Miss Keke Valasquez Lord.  
*She's A Lady*

The title of this article refers to a song made famous by one of the greatest crooners of all time Mr. Tom Jones. When the song was released in 1971 it was an overnight sensation and became one of the singer's megahit signature songs. It is still being performed by him when he tours or plays Las Vegas.



"She's A Lady" also refers to this issue's Current Queen, the inimitable, irresistible female impersonation sensation Miss Keke Valasquez Lord.

I recently interviewed Keke for this article at her home while she applied her "stage" makeup to do a show benefiting The Imperial Court of Buffalo which is a charitable organization that raises money for people who are infected or affected by the AIDS virus. Keke often performs at benefits that raise many thousands of dollars for "The Court". She is also the vice president of the organization and the coordinator for the 2007 Coronation Ball which is the annual event at which new monarchs are crowned.

The Imperial Court however is just one of the many activities that fill the life of Miss Valasquez Lord with a dazzling array of glamorous achievements. The other big passion in her life is Pageant Competition. To list all the titles she has won in her quest for international recognition on the pageant circuit would take up more space than this article is allowed. Let's just say she has won 'em all. She told me her ultimate goal is to be crowned Miss Continental Plus. I have no doubt whatsoever that one day she is going to do just that.

I first met Keke when she was just starting to come



out as a queen. It was shortly after high school and before that she was a young boy whose name she won't even reveal. She says her life, "really began" when she changed from that boy name to her legal female name which is Kelly Craig. Keke Valasquez Lord is her stage persona. I became acquainted with Kelly when she won her first title in one of the Buffalo nightclubs where she regularly performed. At first she was really an enigma to me, albeit a fascinating one. I later learned it was because of her shyness and the need she had, and still has, to remain her own private person. When she steps onto a stage she radiates like a Roman candle. They call her Buffalo's Brown Sugar. But when she comes off the stage and out of the spotlight Keke reverts





to Kelly and becomes introverted and quiet. It took me a long time to get to know the private person beneath the pancake and blush. And I think I still have a way to go.

Eventually I heard from Kelly about her background. Her family, her friends, her

peers, and then her education and profession. I was quite astonished to learn that she holds a prominent position as a Health Education Specialist with a highly regarded social service agency called The M.O.C.H.A. (men of color health awareness) Project. Her job requires her to attend numerous lectures, workshops and seminars in Buffalo and elsewhere across New York State. She thus acquires



a vast sensitivity and knowledge of the gay black community and the lives of those on whom it impacts. Her duties often involve field trips into the community to do outreach. She has become an important advocate and resource through one on one interactions with the agency's clients.

Who would have thought that this was the same person who worked at night doing dynamic impersonations of Whitney Houston, Patti LaBelle, and most of all her beloved role model Tina Turner. Hell, Keke does Tina better than Tina does Tina!

I decided to go light on asking personal questions at our interview because I knew about Kelly's expressed desire for privacy. Also because there are certain things that are really none of my damn business. Things, for instance, like genitals. I did however learn that Kelly has had a number of procedures done to sculpt her body to the lush proportions it has today. Her pageant competitions often have bathing suit categories and she has no trouble appearing in a bikini with everything carefully "tucked", look-







ing like a totally voluptuous curvaceous femme fatale.

Kelly explained that she likens her life as Keke to the life of a runway model. She always strives for complete perfection and she usually succeeds totally. Her makeup, her hair, her clothes, the whole package is literally flawless. When our interview ended and she was ready to head out to her performing engagement she was as poised and pol-

ished as a superstar model from Ralph Lauren or Calvin Klein. She showed me the outfit she was going to wear on stage and I was flabbergasted. It was about twelve feet of white satin embellished with about a hundred white fox tails. Ann-Margret would have killed for it! I can just visualize Miss Keke Valasquez Lord sweeping on stage wrapped in all of that white fox. All I can say is, "She's A Lady".



*Mirror  
Mirror*

Karen,  
PO Box 9584  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL  
33310



Regina, New Jersey



Ingrid Erickson,  
34620.  
PO Box 225.  
Otsego, MI 49078





# Mirror Mirror



Jackie Marshal,  
237 Alamitos Ave.  
Long Beach, CA 90802

June, Long Island, NY



Whisper Leigh Smythe  
wleigh111@yahoo.com





Lois E. Fisher.  
Northern Calif.. #206

Angela's Halloween outfit.



2022  
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Mirror



Diane Thomas.  
312 E. broad St. Apt. A.  
R-Town, PA 18951



Angela Foxx, St. Louis





Mirror  
Mirrors



Dina again.

Roberta  
#3637



Jackie Thomas  
#3392

Foxy Roxy gets rowdy.





For Mirror Mirror



Billie.  
PO Box  
2490.  
New York, NY  
10009



Candy

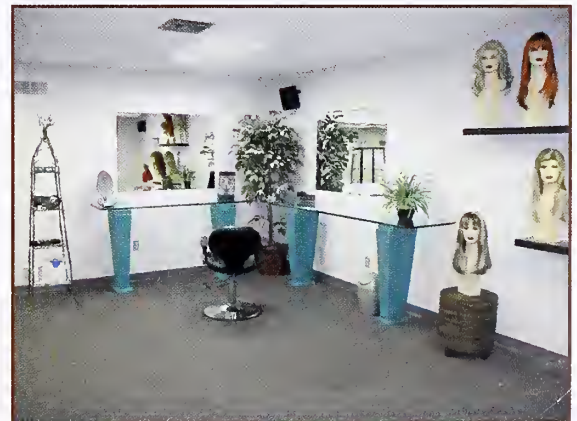
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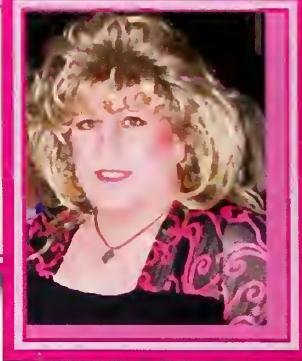
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# On My Mind



## Mea Culpa, Mea Cupla

Ya know, some days it's... open mouth, insert foot. As soon as *LL*#68 hit the street, I received a copy of *Transgender Tapestry* #110 with a note from IFGE Executive Director Denise Leclair. It said, "We're not dead yet! Nice editorial though..." Denise has taken up the editor's pen for the magazine, succeeding Dallas Denny. That's no small job but I am certain Denise is up to the challenge. She and I have discussed this magazine business many times and she knows the pitfalls. Now, she has to manage the financial side of the magazine as well as "herd cats" as the editor.

So, contrary to my assertion in the last issue, *LadyLike* is **not** the "last woman standing." However, you may recall I wrote about how other t-related magazines had disappeared due to poor distribution. Soon after we put that issue to bed we were notified that one of our major distributors was reducing the draw of *LadyLike* by 400 copies. Yikes! What was that about? Seems that a major outlet for *LL* and similar magazines was Tower Books. Tower Books had filed for bankruptcy and our distributor would no longer ship them magazines. Ouch! That really hurt.

Then, not a week later, one of our independent magazine distributors went "belly up". And, to add to the burden, one of the major adult bookstores in Philadelphia, Edward's, had their property condemned under Eminent Domain to make room for an expansion of the Pennsylvania Convention Center. Can you say "piling on"?

Okay, I don't mean to sound alarmist. We're still healthy and in good shape. We'll continue to publish *LL* on time. But as you can see, we cannot count on distribution to newsstands and bookstores like we used to. We are, however, counting on our subscribers to keep us going. We need your help to replace lost distribution sales with subscribers. Please recommend *LadyLike* to your friends.

By the time you read this we should have our new website up and running, [www.llmag.com](http://www.llmag.com). What Angela and I hope to do here is provide you with additional content that you won't see in the magazine. You will only be able to access this content if you are a subscriber to the print version of the magazine. Some of the things we've discussed are: sample

issue PDF for non-subscribers; content from out-of-print issues; photos from major events around the country; expanded photo collections of Profile Girls and subscribers; and maybe even videos. If you have suggestions for what you'd like to see at the website, email me at [jo\\_ann@cldspub.com](mailto:jo_ann@cldspub.com). Angela and I will talk it over and see if your suggestion can be accommodated.

## A Major Decision in NYC

You expect this in San Francisco, not New York City. Under a rule being considered by the NYC Board of Health, people born in the city would be able to change the documented sex on their birth certificates by providing affidavits from a doctor and a mental health professional laying out why the patient should be considered a member of the opposite sex, and asserting that the proposed change would be permanent. Wow, now that's progressive. Notice what's missing? There's no explicit requirement for any surgical alterations!

Such a decision was a long time coming and is not without issues. For example, would an M-t-F who had changed sex be allowed to legally marry a man? Maybe. What about an F-t-M who wanted to play major league football? Who knows? Then there will be the idiots who claim to be transgendered (when they're not) and use it to scam or harass other people.

Not surprisingly there are a lot of people against this rule. For example: "I've already heard of a 'transgendered' man who claimed at work to be 'a woman in a man's body but a lesbian' and who had to be expelled from the ladies' restroom because he was propositioning women there," Dr. Paul McHugh, a member of the President's Council of Bioethics and chairman of the psychiatry department at Johns Hopkins University, wrote in an e-mail message on the subject. Leave it to one of Bush's Bozos to perpetuate this urban myth. No one has ever been able to track down this "offender" who, in my opinion, exists only in the minds of the gender-bigots. If they can conceive of such a scenario, well then it must have happened somewhere, right?

I hope that NYC goes forward with this new ruling. You can track what's happening by Googling "NYC board of health + gender rules".

Stay frosty!

—JoAnn Roberts





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